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WRESTLING THEN & NOW

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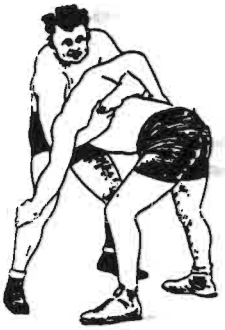

The snowstorm hit New York hard that Friday morning, and I cursed my damn luck...

For weeks I had looked forward to the Meadowlands card scheduled that evening as I was expecting a title change. Seeing Flair tie Harley Race's record would be witnessing wrestling history.

But the weather got worse with each passing hour...

"Are you crazy?" a friend asked. "You're traveling to Jersey! They're expecting twelve inches!"

"But Flair's winning the title tonight!" I tried to explain.

"So what? It's not like it's **real**. You know what's going to happen!"

I paused for a second and considered what he said. As many times as I'd been disappointed at cards, would it really be worth the hassle?

"I can't miss **this**" I said. I knew right there I wouldn't change my mind.

The bus trip took longer than usual, but when I reached the arena I **felt** the excitement. Although the crowd was sparse, they were pumped...

Two hours later Flair arrived in the ring. There was electricity in the air. His wife suddenly left the dressing room to sit ringside and watch. The WCW crew stood by to witness the event. It **wasn't** just another match to them either.

Although I'd seen Flair in far better matches, his victory was a thrill I will not soon forget. Many in the crowd stood and cheered for minutes afterwards, giving each other high-5's. For me, it was the Super Bowl and World Series all rolled up in one.

Maybe I am "crazy" to travel to any match in a snowstorm. 9 out of 10 times I **wouldn't**. But I have friends who flew to Japan and cried with happiness when they reached the arena. Do you know what? I can understand and appreciate that too...

For better or worse, wrestling's in my blood and no mere storm will ever change that...

WRESTLING-THEN & NOW is published monthly at $1.25 a copy. 6 issue subscriptions are available for $6. One year subscriptions are $12. Overseas add $1 an issue. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO EVAN GINZBURG.** Back issues are now available at $1.25 each or $1 when buying more than one issue. The entire year of 1990 back issues are available for $10.
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LETTERS TO WT&N

Since I started subscribing to the sheets, I have seen a good deal of controversy and change, not all for the good. I was a fan of Rodney Leighton's writing long before I became a friend. Re: the Jan. issue; I feel Rodney "bared his soul" somewhat; I found his column personal, and a touch powerful. He showed me once again he has feelings (not an ego-gratification problem as suggested by a writer who should have known better). His column was also devoid of 4 letter words and language some writers feel they must put in columns abundantly for Lord knows what reason. If some editors want swear words and sexual remarks throughout their newsletters, so be it. Then it becomes my choice not to renew my subscriptions to them (and I won't be). I subscribe to good wrestling newsletters, and contrary to the letter to the editor in the Jan. issue, WT&N is definitely a wrestling zine, and a good one. Your reply to him covered everything. Keep it going, Evan.

GREG MILLER
HAMILTON, ONT. CANADA

Read your column in Jan. Chatterbox. Love nostalgia and history of wrestling. Truly fell in love with wrestling during Pedro's title reign and Bruno's 2nd run. Lost interest with Backlund but revived by Snuka turn- 1982 or so. Enjoy remembering when it meant something to wrestle MSG monthly sell-outs. Weekly wrestling shows at Jack Witch's Sports Arena in nearby North Attleboro, Mass. were a part of growing up in this region.

Can't anybody get good quality video of old TV wrestling- early 70's? Gotch-Goulet vs. King Cutis-Scicluna one of the wildest TV bouts ever for tag titles. Bruno-Pedro turn on TV. Debuts of Lonnie Mayne, Stasiak, Spoiler during their WWWF stays. Blassie attacking Pedro with chair during Boston TV interview. Clips contain many of my favorites growing up...

ANTHONY PARILLO
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

This question might be answered by Dr. Mike. I remember Olympic Auditorium shows in the early 70's when wrestlers could call time-outs. What were the rules for calling time out? What was the theory for this type of angle?

RAY ASHER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The statement that a person who travels 3000 miles to attend a card is crazy says more about Rod Leighton than it does about anyone else.

If a person has the $, and it makes him happy, it's nobody's business but his own. As long as I don't have to subsidize another person I don't care how they spend their $. I certainly wouldn't call someone "crazy" for making different choices.

I rarely go now that I'm spending a lot of time and a fair amount of $ fencing. If there were a convention in an interesting city with wrestlers and fans that I'd like to see at a convenient time, however, I'd be the first one there. I don't think that makes me crazy- I think it means that my values are different from Rodney Leighton's.

BETSEY ANDERSON
BRIGHTON, MA.

READER PROFILE- LIONEL RUMM (ONTARIO, CANADA)

I enjoyed reading your commentary in the last two (#4 and #5) TU Rasslin Riots. I agree with your comments on Seize The Day and Robin Williams' fine performance. Even though it is set in the 1950's, speaking as a Jew, I believe it is politically, spiritually and emotionally correct, both then and now.

For about a year and change, until I obtained my own grade 7-8 English Enrichment class, I was a part-time/supply teacher. While it at times was rewarding, I found it difficult to adjust to the daily grind of a new class and then once a rapport was established, having to leave. My sister lives in the New York area, and from what she tells me and from what I know and have read, you must face added social pressures brought on by extreme poverty and violence (if you in fact teach in disadvantaged areas).

I also used to collect autographs...well, autographed photos. When I was a little guy back in the early 1960's, I used to vacation in the summer in a small community about 50 miles north of Toronto. An independent used to run a Saturday evening programme featuring Sweet Daddy Siki, Sam Steamboat and none other than Bruno Sammartino...was surprised at how short but powerful he was/is.

In the early 60's I was watching a Johnny Powers versus Jerry London match. Johnny Powers was kicking hell out of London. We had ringside. I thought it was all real. Like I'm 15 and believed in the goodness of man and didn't know what a plutocracy was...anyway, I was very frightened for London. He was on the ropes with Powers hammering him. I believe I pulled Powers (then blond) hair to stop him. For some reason he took objection to my kind act. He swore at me and started after me. Boy, did I run. Never looked back. And never saw him wrestle live again. What a guy!

I also remember the Tolos Brothers wrestling there (The Sutton Arena). John was much taller, bigger than Chris. They billed themselves as the Wrecking Crew/The Hamilton Wrecking Crew. More memories but alas I will let them fade for now...

"So sad so strange, the days that are no more..."

READERS' CHOICE BY VIC STANLEY

Attention WT&N readers! Here is your opportunity to have a say on the content of one of my future articles. Which of the following storylines would you like me to elaborate upon? Some of them may even be based on some semblance of fact. Don't worry. They will all be wrestling related in one way or another. It is entirely up to you. Please submit your votes to an already beleaguered Evan:

1)Juicing with Abdullah the Butcher 2)My Hollywood hot tub weekend with the Landers Sisters 3)Fear and Loathing at the Ice Capades
4) Tales of unrequited love involving Magnificent Mimi Lesseos
5) How I lost (not so much lost as misplaced) my virginity and regained it 2 years later in Akron, Ohio. 6) My flight from Minneapolis to Chi. with Pretty Boy Bobby Heenan 7) Verne Gagne and Fritz Von Erich's Mail Order Business Management school 8) Embracing misery as a lifestyle
9) More sentimental, but hopefully not maudlin "nostalgia" type material
10) Reader's Choice. Pick a topic and I will give it my best shot.

If this idea generates any reaction at all, the completed article will appear a few issues from now. If not, I will be **completely mortified.**

RODLINES: IS THIS FRIENDSHIP; ENJOYMENT; OR EXPLOITATION? BY R. LEIGHTON

Over the past few months, I have been involved with a number of publishers/editors. Some put out wrestling sheets. Some put out other types of sheets. One puts out a zine on computer discs. In that time; I have made some friends; and, perhaps, have lost some. I have had exceptionally good relationships with Evan and Brian Tramel of Rasslin' Riot (1806 Self Circle, Apt. #B, Jonesboro, Ar., 72401: $3 for 4 monthly issues of this wacky mini) and Dick Freeman (computer zine called PBW; thick, so I'm told, $2; quarterly: 130 West Limestone, Yellow Springs, Ohio, 45387) and with David Wyder (publisher of Ash and Daily Cow; 121 Gregory Ave., #B-7, Passaic, N.J., 07055) and Jim Testa (publisher of Jersey Beat, and Grot, which are punk music zines and I do a column in JB. $2 from 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J., 07087) Paul MacArthur & Dave Skolnick of Wrestling Perspective are good guys ($1 per monthly issue; P.O. Box 401 Camillus, N.Y., 13031-0401), if a bit fussy.

Some others are not so nice nor have they created such good feelings. And, no, I am not taking a crack at Ron Lemieux. There have been others; including one guy who has a number of my writings and just quit and another and so on and blah, blah!!

This now becomes out right exploitation; I won't blame Evan if he doesn't run it. Good advertising, though.

For various reasons, I have decided to start publishing. Here are a few details:

Rod's Reflector will be a monthly; starting in May or possibly June. 20 to 30 copied pages; letter size. I plan on a section of Canadian news/views and such; a section covering independents (anybody want to send reports and such?); hopefully, a large and active letter section. And, a strong focus on other sheets; featuring lists of people's likes and dislikes and a two page piece written by the editor and couple of regular writers and a couple of readers; entitled "Why You Should Subscribe To _ _" First issue will have (I think) Riot. Second issue; if Evan puts it together, will be WT&N. Also some humor; opinion; more. Anybody want to write for me? You get credit. Subscribe. $2.75 per issue; anything up to $10, please send cash (Can. or U.S.): over that; checks/m.o.'s should be made payable to: Rodney Leighton and sent to: R.R. #3, Pugwash, N.S., Can., B0K 1L0.

And, if I am going to do that, might as well start doing my reviewzine again, right? The New Leighton Look will be about 20 pages of basically all reviews; available as material, time and finances permit. I am going to use some guest reviewers; for things I can't do like computer zines and also for things I prefer not to, such as rap. $2 per issue; I have an account system worked out. First issues likely June: unless I get a lot of stuff in the meantime.

As a complement to this; I am going to do a music review zine, on tape. The Leighton Listen will be on 90 minute tapes; will contain all or part of my (or my guest reviewer's) fave numbers from each release received; as well as a short review on tape and with an enclosed sheet giving basic data plus a short review. These will be $5 per copy. Who knows when the first one will be out? As soon as I have enough songs to make up a tape and the finances.

I have a bunch more; will tell you about them in time; if Evan don't kill me!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I plan on doing music reviews for Hot Rod; predominantly jazz, blues, R&B, rap. Maybe some rasslin'. Hope you'll all support the most controversial man in wrestling fandom!!! **E.G.)**

REMEMBERING THE SHEIK-- BY BOB LANDERS

I look forward with much anticipation to reading each issue. I must confess I marveled at the piece you did on your father. I wish I had a story as nice to tell. My father didn't have anything but disdain for wrestling, although he never stopped me from going. I started attending matches in Toledo soon after receiving my driver's license. I live about 30 miles from Toledo and would drive every Thursday night. That was in the heyday of the Sheik's promotion, so I read with great interest the article about Detroit. Say what you want about the Sheik (not you, personally, but others who knock him), but he did draw many capacity houses to Detroit's Cobo Arena. In fact, I remember 7 consecutive sellouts in about 1972 which included several Sheik vs. Johnny Valentine bouts. Not too many east coast (WWWF) wrestlers came in, even though the Sheik made periodic trips to MSG, and rare trips elsewhere in WWWF-land. Sammartino did make one appearance around 1980 to meet the Sheik, and Sheik returned the favor, wrestling Sammartino in Pittsburgh. At one point around 1971 or so, Dick the Bruiser began to run opposition to the Sheik. Bruiser ran the old Olympia Auditorium with men like Sammartino, Ernie Ladd, Heenan and the Blackjacks, etc. The Sheik retaliated by utilizing the full forces of the NWA. Sheik ran loaded cards--they probably didn't mean much to the Detroit casual fan, but sent a clear message to Bruiser of NWA unanimity. Blassie came in, Mascaras, the Funks, Race, Geigel, Rip hawk, Dusty, etc. Hotshots from all the country. Orgasm time for the serious fan. Bruiser retreated as dwindling houses and probably increased political pressure made the venture unprofitable. A deal was struck between Bruiser and Sheik which resulted in an eventual meeting between the 2 both in Detroit and Indianapolis. The Detroit bout was one of the last big houses--if not the last--for the Sheik's promotion. Loss of 2 prime television stations, a costly buyout of Pedro Martinez Upper New York State promotion, and a construction of a magnificent and lavish home in Michigan pretty much sealed the coffin on The Sheik's promotion. There arrived a point at which the NWA ceased to support the Sheik's Detroit efforts. That point coincided with bitter conflicts between the Sheik and most of the NWA brass at that tim

ADAM HOROWITZ STRIKES BACK AT THE FISHMAN!

In recent weeks, both Evan and I have received a number of inquiries as to why we don't respond to Gary Fishman's ongoing assault on us. Well, let me tell you a little about Gary and maybe it will give you a better understanding. Gary goes to every wrestling show he can, but never enjoys himself and promises he'll never return. During the main event, rather than watching the match, he's usually talking about his continuing marital problems or telling some 3rd generation joke. His latest rambling took place at a show in Philly when he began to tell me about he got his girlfriend pregnant at age 17. He felt real responsible because after all he was the one who set her up with the student voted best looking. Gary likes to act like an older brother to me. He often tells me to follow the path he didn't take. I'll never forget the time he told me he tried several different things during the 60's which he now wishes he didn't do. I was expecting to hear about his experimenting with drugs, but when I asked him for some examples, he told me about his attempts to shower daily, comb his hair each morning, and stop placing posters of Moolah and Johnny Rodz on his bedroom walls. Gary was very generous when he got separated from his wife and they split the assets. He insisted that as long as he can keep his back issues of the Observer and programs from MSG cards in 1964, she can get the house and their daughter.

DR. MIKE LANO'S BACK TO THE FUTURE

Hi people! Just returned from my first trip to Japan. I, like Bill Kunkle and other guys from my era of late 60's and 70's have wanted to travel to Japan since I first traded results and photos with friends over there I met thru the 1971 penpals section of Apter's The Wrestler mag. Over the years I saw interesting pairings and cream of the crop Americans going over there to have contests with idols of mine- Baba, Inoki, Destroyer, Kimura, Inoue; and watching the risings of Tsuruta, Anton Geesink (who later quit- first Judo/Karate gimmick guy), Fujinami and others. Am I the only guy that remembers Baba & Sakaguchi teaming against the Funks at the Olympic or Baba-Tolos vs. Shibuya-Saitoh or Inoki-Sakaguichi and all their pairings at the Olympic?

I remember seeing all of Fujinami's Olympic Auditorium title defenses in L.A. I believe Vince Sr. allowed Lebell to use a lot of the guys going and coming from Japan to MSG. Anytime Backlund went to Japan, we'd usually get a pit stop against Rivera or Piper late in '76.

I treasured my Mil Mascaras phone book-like annual of all his masks and pictures from around '74. About this time I was even sent a huge photo book devoted to the ultimate masked match-up of the time- Destroyer vs. Mascaras that was a big feud. Back before '75, Baba primarily used the NWA guys, but had some exclusive WWF tours with the "legendary" Bruno-Baba match I heard was weak. Even though these guys might've been going thru the motions, heat was incredible for these superstars with that magic "aura" that Japanese fans told me about. That's why Jushin Thunder Lyger doesn't get the pops Lou Thesz or JV or Funks get- Japanese fans for some reason focus more on the heavyweights, and those who've been around years and years with legend status. Wonder how big Rhodes would be, although he was disappointing the last tour he made (I believe for Inoki with Murdoch in '76)? Favorite shows & promotions were all Japan Women & new Japan Men with the wildest brawl I've ever seen being Onita's tag main for FMW on the 5th. Worst show was SWS which shows Vince's pawmarks all over it. None of the guys were into their match, and there was more security than paid fans there. Rockers were great, posing with various sheets and echoing our thoughts on Vince, as did Bob Orton, Jr. and Killer Tim Brooks who clowned around for photos with beer, Japanese Sushi and various funny objects. Jeff Jarrett acted like he didn't know his dad was pulling pranks on Joe Pedicino- that he thought the Global thang would occur. El Dandy & Sano were very serious, concerned their respective matches would "look best." The move of the trip occurred at this SWS show, when Dandy's Japanese opponent did a reverse moonsault off the 2nd turnbuckle to outside the ring. Sean Michaels appeared to pick up on this, and other Japanese-style dives with his work at Royal Rumble.

Back to Japanese nostalgia- when Inoki left Baba to form NJPW around '73, he was stuck with the NWF as foreign talent, but managed to have super cards with Johnny Powers (who Inoki eventually kept the NWF World Title from for an extended period-enough to eventually turn it into IGPW title with Hogan & Inoki as first title holders), Johnny Valentine, Ernie Ladd, Firpo, Abdullah (who later went full-time to Baba), and the Lebell L.A. talent or lack thereof. When Inoki met Ali, Gene Lebell was ref; and various times ring announcer Jimmy Lennon and ref Red Shoes Duggan worked Inoki giving it that "aura." Tiger Jeet Singh came in around '75, and was loyal to Inoki all these years. And the link with Vince Sr., Jr., and Hishashi Shinma gave birth to more Inoki-Andre matches (Andre only worked Inoki after leaving Montreal's Grand Prix as Jean Ferre), Fujinami-Estrada, Tiger Mask-Dynamite Kid and and Hogan-Inoki-Backlund classics). Backlund even had that phantom title change and other weird things

DOC'S JAPANESE ADVENTURE CONT!

happen while in Japan.) This double cross by Inoki eventually led to the distrust that occurs to this day between Inoki, Baba and Vince Jr.(who I'm sure was the culprit here).

The other fun group, IWE, boosted Rusher Kimura & Mighty Inoue & Shozo Kobayashi; and mainly brought in Verne's guys for tours until it died an AWA-like death and the workers were absorbed by the other groups- most notably Shozo going to Titan and then Inoki.

If Evan tells me there's interest, I will go full-tilt into Japanese nostalgia or just relay what happened on the current trip where we saw 6 promotions/9 cards in 6 days to set the record- at least over there. Until then, I'm back to the future!

GARY FISHMAN'S COLUMN

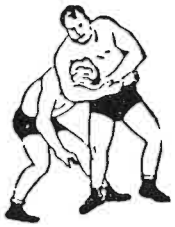
I would like to thank Adam Horowitz for his complimentary piece in this issue. By the way, Adam, your mother called and said that before you write wrestling articles you have to finish your homework first...In terms of workrate, I see little difference any more between the WWF, the NWA & Evan's bouts with his mother over who gets to keep his baby pictures...Here is a sneak preview of upcoming issues: Evan has great articles plannedsuch as "The Life and Times of Scott Dickinson..."What Price Glory- The Dan Reilly Story" and late breaking coverage of Evan's behind the scene efforts to get 1992's Wrestlemania to Flushing High School...Let's get serious for a moment department. How many of you know that in 1974 or 1975 Mr. Wrestling #1 Tim Woods held the Georgia Tag Title with none other than S.D. Jones? They lost the belts to the Anderson Brothers and eventually lost a loser leaves town match to Ole and Gene. I'll never forget one heartbroken women in the audience crying "Don't leave town S.D.! Please don't leave town!"...This is my list of the 25 feuds that I have enjoyed the most since I've watched. Just as last month, they are in no particular order: Mr. Wrestling #1 vs. Mr. Wrestling #2, Jim Duggan vs. Ted Dibiase (UWF)...Terry Funk vs. Lawler... Piper-Snuka...Flair-Wyndham/Steamboat/Race...Midnites-Fantastics/Arn & Tully/ R&R Express...Slaughter-Iron Sheik...Abdullah-Brody...Freebirds-Von Erichs... Bruno-Bill Watts/Spiros Arion...Jack Brisco-Don Muraco...Briscos-Funks... Dory Funk Jr. vs. Rhodes..Tully Blachard-Magnum T.A...Lawler-E. Gilbert... Fantastics-Sheepherder...Freebirds-Dibiase/Steve Williams...Rhodes-Race...Ron Bass-Wyndham...Bill Watts vs. Mr. Wrestling 2...There are many great feuds I have heard about but never saw so please send in your own picks...Jersey Devil sent in his list already of his top 5 favorites- Bugs Bunny vs. Elmer Fudd, Ron Lemieux vs. Rodney Leighton, Cowboy Lang vs. Lord Littlebrook, Tony Atlas vs. Ted Arcidi, The Bushwackers vs. The Sheepherders...

UPCOMING IN WT&N!

NEXT ISSUE!!! An exclusive/extensive interview with the "Golden Greek,"**JOHN TOLOS**- plus clippings on his tremendous career. Tolos comments on his great feuds , steroid abuse in wrestling, the legends of wrestling- **A MUST READ!!!** In the May issue I have a lengthy interview with none other than the legendary **CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO**!!! Lou talks about politics, acting, the road, compares the giantsfrom yesterday & today & his own great career! If your subscription to the sheet is up, **NOW IS THE TIME TO RESUBSCRIBE!!!** Don't miss these interviews/tributes to these giants of the mat game. Many of our regular features will be pushed ahead a month or two to make room for these fascinating talks with the true greats of the mat game. I will break with policy & share some great nostalgia clippings of these men as well...some classic line-up sheets from the past...**BE HERE!!!**

NOSTALGIA FOCUS BY MIKE RODGERS- TEXAS 1979

AMERICAN TITLE
Kevin Von Erich
Spoiler 4/1
Wahoo McDaniel 5/13
Spoiler 6/2
El Halcon 8/5
Spoiler 10/7
B. Brody 11/31



BRASS KNUCKS TITLE
Mark Lewin
Bruiser Brody 6/10
Mark Lewin 7/22
Bruiser Brody 7/29

TEXAS TITLE
David Von Erich

CARRIBEAN CHAMP
Jose Lothario
El Gran Marcus

AMERICAN TAG
Spoiler & Mark Lewin
J. Lothario & El Halcon 6/1
Gino Hernandez & El Gran Marcus 7/20

TEXAS TAG TITLE
Bruiser Brody & Kerry Von Erich

1979 WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
Mark Lewin had a fantastic year in Texas. He held the Brass Knucks Title on 2 occasions, The American Tag Title with the Spoiler. But his main success came in singles as he held wins over the top names in the business, including Bruiser Brody, The Sheik, Fritz Von Erich, Pepper Gomez, Bull Ramos, Ox Baker, Ernie Ladd, Jose Lothario, Tiger Conway Jr.

2. Bruiser Brody 3. David Von Erich 4. Spoiler 5. El Halcon

1979 TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR
Spoiler & Mark Lewin capture this win in a tough decision. Tag matches weren't very big in Texas during this time period and there really were not too many listed. Spoiler & Lewin held the American Tag Title for 6 months and had wins over Kevin & David Von Erich, & Bruiser Brody & Brute Bernard among others.

2. Lothario & El Halcon 3. Kevin & David Von Erich 4. Brody/Kerry V. Eric

1/7/79 Houston- Harley Race drew Andre, Ox Baker W Gino Hernandez DQ, Dusty Rhodes W Mark Lewin, Billy Graham Drew Tiger Conway Jr., Bull Ramos W Nick Kozak, Mil Mascaras & Jose Lothario W Dory & Terry Funk

3/19/79 Fort Worth- G. Hernandez W Bob Marcus, Coconut Willie W Little Tokyo, Conway Jr. & David V. Erich W Bill White & Great Goliath, Bull Ramos W Colosso Colosetti, David Von Erich W Mark Lewin DQ, Spoiler W Brody C

5/14/79 Fort Worth- Mark Lewin W The Sheik, Kevin & David Von Erich & Brute Bernard W Gino Hernandez & The Spoiler & Gary Hart, Bull Ramos W Reggie Parks, Bob Markus drew Pepper Gomez, El Halcon W Prince Tonga

8/31/79 Houston- Race W El Halcon NWA Title Match, Killer Brooks W N. Kozak, J. Lothario W Frank Dusek, G. Hernandez W Tom Jones, G. Hernandez W Len Denton, Dale Valentine W David Von Erich, The Spoiler Drew Tiger Conway Jr., Mark Lewin W Tor Kamata, Brody W Nick Bockwinkle DQ AWA Title

11/11/79 Dallas- Race No Contest Brody NWA title, Les Thornton W El Gran Marcus DQ, Les Thornton Drew Killer Brooks, Scandor Akbar W Tom Pritchard, Mark Lewin W Don Diamond, Sugar Bear Harris (Kimala) W Spoiler DQ.

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STARS OF THE PAST ÐEAN SILVERSTONE'S OFFICE. CIRCA 1970's, WASHINGTON STATE

Dean Silverstone, the rotund rival of Don Owens, tried running an effective show for a while in Washington, but eventually folded, unable to face the competition of the Owens based rival office or the big budget needed at the time. For a while though, he had a good thing going, with this spotlight on some of his wrestlers and trainees.

JOHNNY, BOBBY, & RON DUPREE:

Ron Dupree, formerly the long time tag partner of Chris Colt of The Hells Angels & Comancharos fame, came in with two new "brothers", one named Bobby (aka Bobby Mayne and later, as he is now known, Bobby Jaggers) and Johnny (formerly known as Johnny Mann, a very mediocre wrestler who was far better as a manager.) Only Bobby, as most now know, went on to fame. Ron Dupree, his best years behind him and the victim of several minor heart attacks, died while in Washington, keeling over in the ring. Mann or Johnny Dupree, as he was called in this area, went back to Ca. and quit. They were, as "brothers" a bomb that promised an explosion but sadly only delivered a fizzle.

OUTLAW EDDIE SULLIVAN:

Fresh from his Mighty Yankee gimmick down south for Nick Gulas, Sullivan proved to be a popular contender here, both as a fan favorite and as a rulebreaker, depending on whom he was pitted against that particular night. Not overly tall, but built like a bull, he could move amazingly fast. Kicking, stomping, and punching as a villain or slamming and banging as a fan favorite, he proved to be a colorful, vastly underrated wrestler.

LUKE GRAHAM:

No introduction would really be needed for this goatee bearded, bleached blond villain, with his taped thumb which was always "injured", yet managed to heal itself just in time to be driven into an opponent's throat when the ref wasn't looking. Graham would undoubtedly have ranked along with Chris Colt and Ripper Collins, as the top villain for this group. A semi-lunatic gimmick worked well for him, not entirely stupid a la George Steele, but giving off the impression of someone not quite right in the head. (Then again, maybe he was a little off. He could have made a lot more money elsewhere than with this outfit).

THE LUMBERJACKS:

Obligatory "Lumberjacks" seem to be found in every promotion, just like Masked Assassins and Mr. Wrestlings. This office had a pair of Lumberjacks too, namely Bob Beasley and Logger Larson. Both were big men, and both were somewhat dull, although they bled a lot, which was their main virtue. Another Lumberjack later came along, first billed as Crazy Luke. The team or eventual threesome, could go either as fan favorites or villains, but usually the people tended to favor them, this being logging country and all. These were of course no relation to the WWf Lumberjacks or the Arizona based Lumberjacks (real life brothers David and Russ Walters).

COUNT DRUMMER:

A skinny, bleached blonde who was photographed sleeping in a coffin and played a human vampire role. He and Chris Colt later went east as The Time Machine, with Drummer billed as "From the Past" and Colt as "From The Future." The gimmick didn't click and Drummer, the weak link, quickly faded.

(NEXT ISSUE: RIPPER COLLINS/KARL KRAMER/MOSES MORALES/BOBO MONGOL- BY ANON!)

HOW BRODY TURNED IN ST. LOUIS BY HARRY WHITE

One of the most fascinating things about wrestling is the metamorphosis from hated heel to loved face. One of the most fascinating personalities turned from a monster heel opposing the likes of Andre, Bruiser and O'Connor into an over face by teaming with the likes of Andre, Bruiser & O'Connor.

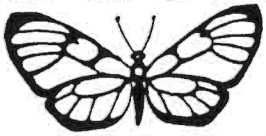
After some TV squashes, King Kong Bruiser Brody got an immediate push by pinning former champ jack Brisco on 9/16/78. He followed that up 2 weeks later by pinning former champ Pat O'Connor. This led to a clash with the popular Dick the Bruiser and the inevitable DQ. On 3/23/79 Brody got his first title shot but was pinned by Race. Brody bounced back with wins over Roger Kirby and the popular Ted Dibiase. On 9/14 Brody battled Andre and lost by DQ. On the same card he won a 16 man battle royale. This led to another title match against Race & he was pinned twice. Brody and Ox Baker beat Bruiser & David Von Erich and then was DQ'd against O'Connor. Brody is still a strong heel and teamed with Murdoch against Bruiser & Andre. Murdoch and Brody proved to be a successful team. Murdoch is supposed to help him in a match against Kevin Von Ercih but instead causes him to lose. Then in a tag against Bruiser & O'Connor, Murdoch refuses to tag in. Then the two collided and Murdoch was pinned causing a fight between the two.

In a subsequent grudge match, Murdoch was counted out but Brody refused to accept the win. Now Brody teams with his old nemesis O'Connor against Murdoch & Killer Cox and Brody loses. Brody is gone to Japan for 6 months & Murdoch takes credit for chasing him off.

Brody comes back but the only place for him is a 6 man with Murdoch and their feud heats up again. In the next match Brody was pinned by the pushed Dibiase.

On the next two cards Brody teams with O'Connor against Murdoch & Sweetan & Murdoch & Studd. Brody then teams with Andre and then with old rival Dick the Bruiser. Brody is now an over face. On 3/6/81 the hero Brody climaxes his feud with villain Murdoch. Murdoch wins & Brody is gone again for a year and a half. When he did come back he was still an over face as he was after the feud with Murdoch which started him as a face here.

Anyone know how he turned in other areas?



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Any old WWF fans remember that when Brody & Hansen entered WWWF in '76, fans generally felt that they weren't legit main-eventers!? Remember, Bruno had just had 3 MSG matches with Koloff, 2 with SuperStar, and 1 with Ernie Ladd so fans felt the talent level had dropped!...Anybody out there interested in a special issue dedicated to **just** readers' memories- drop **all** the regular columns for one month? If so, **SEND 'EM IN!** Even if the idea doesn't pan out, I can still use the material you send...I'm becoming computer **SEMI**-literate. Hope to eventually give this sheet a more professional look & pack in more info for 'ya...Thanks to Jeff Mullins of the always entertaining Sushi for his take-off on WT&N.....Sheldon Golberg's Mat Marketplace ($2 to PO Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130) deals in mat merchandise...Freebirds match featured in Sean Connery B-flick "Highlander"... Francesco Castano's The Ring Post ($2 to 13135 Colton Lane Gaithersburg, MD 20878) has strong news coverage...I know it's "sacrilege", but honestly tell me the Slaughter-Ultimate match wasn't better than the incredibly disappointing Flair-Scott Steiner Clash...A final note; isn't it incredibly sad that mankind always turns to war to solve their differences? As we hurdle towards the 21st Century, it seems there must be a better way...Peace....